

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS
SEPTEMBER 17, 2019**

ITEM 3

SUBJECT

CONSIDERATION OF A PROPOSED RESOLUTION TO COMMIT UP TO A TOTAL OF \$2 MILLION AND EXTEND THE TERM OF CONTRACT NO. 15-098-300 (RUSSIAN RIVER SURFACE WATER-GROUNDWATER AND MANAGEMENT MODELING CONTRACT) BETWEEN THE STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD AND THE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

DISCUSSION

The State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board's) mission is to preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources and drinking water for the protection of the environment, public health, and all beneficial uses, and to ensure proper water resource allocation and efficient use, for the benefit of present and future generations. One of the ways the State Water Board is fulfilling its mission is through implementation of directives identified in the California Water Action Plan (WAP). Specifically, Action 4 of the WAP, to "Protect and Restore Important Ecosystems," contains the following:

"The State Water Resources Control Board and the Department of Fish and Wildlife will implement a suite of individual and coordinated administrative efforts to enhance flows statewide in at least five stream systems¹ that support critical habitat for anadromous fish. These actions include developing defensible, cost-effective, and time-sensitive approaches to establish instream flows using sound science and a transparent public process. When developing and implementing this action, the State Water Resources Control Board and the Department of Fish and Wildlife will consider their public trust responsibility and existing statutory authorities such as maintaining fish in good condition."

To support this effort, the State Water Board executed Contract No. 15-098-300, referred to as the Russian River Surface Water-Groundwater and Management Modeling Contract (Russian River Modeling Contract), with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) in June 2016 to provide technical assistance in the development and application of hydrology and water management models. This modeling is a joint effort with Sonoma County Water Agency.

¹ The five stream systems jointly identified by the State Water Board and California Department of Fish and Wildlife for this effort are: Mark West Creek (tributary to Russian River); Mill Creek (tributary to Sacramento River); Shasta River; South Fork Eel River; and Ventura River.

The currently executed Russian River Modeling Contract is for \$1,189,182.57 and a term of five years. This item will authorize the Executive Director or designee to add funding to the Russian River Modeling Contract with USGS. The Executive Director may further delegate this authority, as appropriate. Additional funding is needed to complete a detailed water management model of the Mark West Creek watershed. The amendment will also add one year, authorizing up to six years, to the contract term.

Per [Resolution No. 2016-0014](#), the Executive Director is authorized to execute Contract No. 15-098-300 and amendments for up to \$1.2 million and five years duration. State Water Board approval is needed for the Executive Director or designee to amend the Russian River Modeling Contract to: (1) provide up to an additional \$800,000 for a total contract amount of up to \$2 million; and (2) extend the contract term from five to six years.

POLICY ISSUE

Should the State Water Board authorize the Executive Director or designee to commit up to an additional \$800,000, for a total contract of \$2 million, and extend the contract term from five to six years for Contract No. 15-098-300 (Russian River Modeling Contract) between the State Water Board and USGS?

FISCAL IMPACT

Sufficient funds are available and have been identified for this item.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

This contract would support the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board's instream flow work and related efforts.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the State Water Board adopt the proposed resolution.